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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An industrial process for treating woollen textiles, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- bringing a knitted or woven woollen textile in an aqueous solution into contact with a protease enzyme in a large amount of water so as to move the woollen textile as little as possible by adjusting the mechanics to 4 to 10 rpm at a temperature of about 60°C or less for 10 to 90 min,
- inactivating the enzyme by not raising the temperature to over about 60°C or reducing the pH to between 4 and 5,
- making the woollen textile dry in mechanical drying at a temperature of about 60°C or less to a residual moisture content of 10 to 45%, and
- carrying out final drying without mechanics.

2. (Original) An industrial process for treating woollen textiles, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- bringing a knitted or woven woollen textile in an aqueous solution into contact with a protease enzyme in a large amount of water so as to move the woollen textile as little as possible by adjusting the mechanics to 4 to 10 rpm at a temperature of about 60°C or less for 10 to 90 min,
- taking the woollen textile to dyeing conditions and dyeing the textile,
- making the woollen textile dry in mechanical drying at a temperature of about 60°C or less to a residual moisture content of 10 to 45%, and

- carrying out final drying without mechanics.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the protease treatment is carried out under neutral or alkaline conditions, preferably at a pH of between 6 and 11.
  4. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the protease is serine protease.
  5. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that, during the protease treatment, the mechanics is adjusted to 4 to 6 rpm.
  6. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that, during the protease treatment, the ratio of the weight of the dry woollen textile to water is between 1/10 – 1/40, preferably 1/20 – 1/40.
  7. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that, during the protease treatment, the temperature is from 35 to 55°C, preferably from 40 to 50°C.
  8. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the woollen textile is knitted fabric.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, characterized in that the amount of protease used, as calculated in protein, is less than 8 mg/g, preferably below 4.4 mg/g of dry knitted fabric.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 8 or 9, characterized in that the protease treatment time is from 15 to 60, preferably from 15 to 30 min.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that the woollen textile is a woven fabric.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, characterized in that the amount of protease use, calculated as protein, is less than 35 mg/g, preferably less than 17.5 mg/g of dry fabric.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11 or 12, characterized in that the protease treatment time is from 15 to 60 min, preferably from 15 to 45 min.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that, before mechanical drying, the moisture content of the woollen textile is spin-dried to 50 to 70%.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that mechanical drying is carried out to residual moisture content of 10 to 30%.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the final drying is carried out in a flat or hanging form, preferably at room temperature.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the protease treatment is carried out to a dyed woollen textile.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~ claim 1, characterized in that the woollen textile is dyed in conjunction with the wet process.

19. (Currently Amended) A woollen textile made by the method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1, characterized in that the woollen textile endures at least 5 washes according to the wool washing program, so that the shrinkage is less than 3% and no essential increase in pilling and/or felting takes place.